

## “One Step” [Living On the Edge of Eternity]

1 Samuel 20:1-3 (text v. 3)

This morning I want to preach on “Living on the Edge of Eternity.” Death has been on my mind lately. It has been in the “news” almost every day.

There have been a number of sad, sudden deaths in the news recently.

L home this week left one dead... My friend J A -  
was killed in a collision last week... Two weeks ago  
were killed in an avalanche on Stevens Pass... Three weeks ago 41  
in the midwest... Last month State  
was shot and killed here in Kitsap County... Popular singer  
H drowned in her bathtub at 49 years old in February—a  
causality of chronic cocaine use.

These incidents remind us (v. 3). David prayed in  
Psalms 39:4, “

.”

David knew he could die at any moment. He felt he was teetering on  
the edge of a cliff. He knew

**I. It is a SHORT / SWIFT step** (text; Job 14:1—

*of few days* ). Job 8:9—

— Declining... Dark (uncertain)... passing away... unsub-  
stantial... nonpermanent. “Shadow of death”

A. Like a weaver’s shuttle (Job 7:6— *swifter*  
”).

B. Like wind or breeze (Job 7:7—  
”). Psalm 78:39—

C. Like a fast runner (Job 9:25— *swifter*  
”). A courier, some of whom are said to go  
150 miles in less than 24 hours ( ).

D. Like a fast ship or eagle in flight (Job 9:26—  
*swift* .”).

E. Like a hand's breadth (Ps. 39:5—  
”).

F. Like a fading flower (Ps. 103:15-16— “  
.”).

G. Like a vapor (James 4:14—  
”).

## II. It is a **SURE** step (Rom. 5:12—

*death passed upon all men*

).

A. We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of this.

1. We shield ourselves from the reality of this. We don't like to think about it so we push it to back into the deepest, darkest recesses of our minds. We do our best to avoid the subject.
2. Young people live like they are indestructible. (Jackass show-Teen jumps off a five story building into a swimming pool. He missed!

B. We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ for this— Every soul needs to be ever prepared to meet their Maker. (Amos 4:12).

➡ Proverbs 27:1—

➡ **EAD: L 12:16-20**

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On September 11, 2001, thousands were killed by Islamic terrorists who attacked our country. Those people went to work on the morning of 9/11 with no idea that before the day was over they would be standing before God.

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## III. It is a **SUDDEN** step. Ecclesiastes 9:12—

*when it falleth suddenly upon them*

➡ Death has a way of barging into our lives without warning.

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Sometimes an obituary will say the deceased . Both my parents died “suddenly”— My mother died of a brain aneurism when she was 38 and my Dad died of a heart-attack at age 44.

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- A. Most people die unprepared! Everyone one of us has “one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel.”
- Pope Adrian IV was strangled by a fly after threatening to ex-communicate Emperor Fredrick I.
  - Roman Emperor, Claudius I, choked to death on a feather.
  - Allan Pinkerton (founder of the National Detective Agency) slipped on the pavement, bit his tongue, and died of gangrene.
  - The Roman Praetor, Fabius, choked on a goat hair from a glass of goat milk he was drinking.
  - Herod - speaking to a crowd in a proud moment (Acts 12:21-23).
- B. One never knows when some event will snatch him from earth’s environment.

Three business men were scheduled on Northwest Airlines flight #255 out of Metropolitan International Airport in Detroit on August 16, 1987. After arriving at the airport, one of the men suddenly became very sick and decided to forego the trip and return home. The other two men boarded the plane. The plane crashed immediately after take off killing 156 people. The jet went down on Middlebelt Road near the airport, smashing cars underneath with their passengers. “By chance” one of the cars the plane crashed on was the car carrying that third business man who was sick and decided not to take that flight! When your “number is up,” it’s over.

**IV. It is a SOLEMN step** (Heb. 9:27—

”).

- A. For the Christian, it is a step to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

B. For the lost, it is a step towards the Great White Throne Judgment.

➔F C G ...  
**V. it will be a SWEET step.** (Ps. 116:15—

)

A. A step into the G !

B. A step into G !

C. A step into !!!

**A I** : According to the , 155,000 people die everyday.<sup>1</sup> That is 6,458 per hour; 107 per minute. 107 people go into eternity to meet God every minute of every day! If the Lord tarries, you and I will be one of those 107 people.

The clock of life is wound but once  
 And no man has the power  
 To tell just when the hands will stop,  
 At late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.  
 To lose one's health is more.  
 To lose one's soul is such a loss  
 That no man can restore.

May we all realize with David,

**A** ?

Only those who are truly prepared to die are prepared to live.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ask.yahoo.com/20051128.html>